

**In the Specification:**

Page 1, on the line after the title of the invention, please insert the following paragraph:

**--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This application is a division of Serial No. 09/380,794, filed September 9, 1999, which is a 371 of PCT/JP98/00969, filed March 10, 1998, both of which are being incorporated in their entirety herein by reference.- -

**Please amend the Abstract as follows:**

~~At the time of coding input image and audio data, and decoding coded video and audio data by using a computer, the amount of computation required per unit time becomes enormous, whereby it has been very difficult to carry out coding and decoding in real time.~~

~~As for coding methods in accordance with the present invention, a~~ The present invention includes methods and apparatus for attaining high speed coding and decoding. A  
~~first method is a method wherein~~ decreases the number of memory access times by  
~~performing~~ signal format conversion, orthogonal transform and continuous variable-length  
~~coding are carried out continuously with predetermined small areas in a frame used as units,~~  
~~and the number of memory access times is decreased, whereby high-speed processing is~~  
~~attained. A second method is a method wherein~~ omits orthogonal transform computation is  
~~omitted by using orthogonal transform coefficients, whereby processing time is shortened to~~  
~~shorten the processing time.~~ A third method is a method wherein, in uses additions and  
subtractions used for orthogonal transform and the like, the number of registers to be used is  
~~decreased, and the number of memory access times is reduced, whereby high-speed~~  
~~processing is attained thereby decreasing the number of registers used and reducing the~~  
~~number of memory access times. The decoding method in accordance with the present~~

invention further includes a decoding method for ~~is a method wherein,~~ in variable-length decoding, wherein table size is not made larger, because the number of table access times per code word is set to a maximum of 2 ~~at the maximum~~, and plural code words are decoded by one table access operation, ~~whereby high-speed decoding is attained~~ to attain high-speed decoding.

**Please replace the current title with the following title:**

-- CODING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INPUT IMAGE DATA  
AND A RECORDING MEDIUM PERFORMING SUCH METHOD--.